

NEWS RELEASE

DELAWARE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION

Commissioner Claire DeMatteis

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Probation and Parole in Delaware: Focus on Success

*Balanced, comprehensive probation system drives successful closure of court-ordered probation cases **above 77% for the past six years***

Dover, DE – Today the Delaware Department of Correction released [**Probation and Parole in Delaware: Focus on Success**](#), a report highlighting Delaware's modern and dynamic probation system that leverages proven evidence-based practices and strategies to support reentry, improve compliance by probationers, and reduce the rate of re-incarceration.

Delaware's balanced method of community supervision has **driven the successful closure of court-ordered probation cases consistently at about 77% for the past six years**. That success is supported by a comprehensive program that identifies probationers' needs and risk factors, tailors supervision plans for each participant, and meets their individual needs through responsive supervision, referral to services, and engagement with community supports.

"Delaware Probation and Parole Officers are highly trained and dedicated to helping individuals on probation lead productive lives in our communities," **said Commissioner Claire DeMatteis**. "This report documents how their training, skills and innovative community supervision efforts are helping to keep probationers out of prison and our communities safer."

Read the full report [by clicking HERE](#).

Highlights of achievements in ***Probation and Parole in Delaware: Focus on Success***:

- 83% decrease in zero tolerance special conditions of supervision between 2018-2020 resulting from a Probation and Parole directive and a partnership with the Delaware Judiciary, which has increased the ability to address minor violations in the community, reducing Probationer's risk of re-incarceration.
- 38% decrease in administrative warrants issued between 2014-2019, resulting in fewer Probationers being detained pending a violation of probation hearing before the court.
- 102% increase in graduated responses between 2014-2019, with a 1,523% increase in graduated incentive responses specifically. Graduated sanctions provide additional opportunities to resolve non-compliance in the community, rather than an immediate return to incarceration. Graduated incentives serve to reinforce positive, prosocial behaviors.

- 398% increase in administrative commitments of Probationers to short duration stays in community corrections centers, in lieu of violation of probation reports being submitted to the courts, which could result in lengthier incarceration stays.
- Accreditation (2016) and reaccreditation (2019) by the American Correctional Association (ACA), achieving a 100% compliance score both times and affirming that Delaware Probation and Parole meets the highest industry standards.
- Working with eligible, moderate to high risk Probationers to secure housing and pay the first months' rent utilizing grant funds.
- Expansion of case management by a community-based organization at all probation offices statewide to help Probationers obtain employment, housing, and other critical services.